
U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia

Chuck Rosenberg - United States Attorney

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**MANASSAS PARK MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY**

(**Alexandria, VA**) Howard J. Johnston, age 62, of Manassas Park, Virginia pleaded guilty yesterday to a one count criminal information charging him with distribution of child pornography. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the pleading after Johnston's appearance before United States District Court Judge T.S. Ellis, III. Sentencing has been set for July 7, 2006.

According to court documents, from December 15, 2004, through March 7, 2005, Johnston, using the screen name "LINKED2K," made postings on internet chat rooms to solicit the trading of pornographic pre-teen videos. Johnston also attempted to solicit videos of children receiving enemas. On various dates between December 2004 and March 2005, Johnston attempted to trade child pornography video files with others. As part of the attempted exchange, Johnston transmitted over the internet several video files depicting prepubescent minors engaged in pornographic acts with adults and with other children.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg stated, "We will continue vigorously to combat the possession and distribution of child pornography on the internet and to protect our children from dangerous internet predators."

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie Bibighaus Hammerstrom is prosecuting the case for the United States.

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